



SAN ANTONIO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

Upcoming year marks 70 years of service and 60 years as a commercial airport

SAN ANTONIO, TX-July 11, 2012- San Antonio, Texas has a long tradition when it comes to flight and aviation. Fort Sam Houston was the site of the first ever military flight, at one time there were four Air Force bases that dotted the landscape, and to this day the military and aviation play a tremendous role in the city's growing economy.

San Antonio International Airport has been a catalyst for that growth for the past seventy years in San Antonio. The City originally purchased an isolated 1,200 acres north of the City Center in 1941 for purposes of developing an airport; in July 1942 the airfield officially opened for business, but was used as a training facility for the US Army Air Forces during World War II.

It was not until the war concluded the City took over operations of the airfield and converted it into an operating commercial airport. In 1951, the City began construction of the original terminal building facility, air traffic control tower and access roadway. The facilities were completed in 1953 in which the airport opened for business serving the region's growing appetite for commercial air service.

Since then, the airport property has doubled in size and has blossomed into a 2,600 acre campus. Over the decades growth of the city has spawned several major expansion projects at the airport. The terminal facilities have grown from a few gates which passengers walked across the apron and up stairs to their awaiting aircraft, to two terminal featuring twenty four jet bridge equipped gates.

In the 1960's the jet age arrived on the scene, and marked the first major expansion for the airport. It was announced San Antonio would be the host of the 1968 World's Fair, at which point the planning process began to expand the terminal facilities to meet the demand of increased traffic. An eight gate satellite terminal featuring jet bridges was completed in time for the World's Fair.

As a result of the airport's 1975 Master Plan, in 1984 an additional 16 gate, 360,000 sq. ft. terminal facility (now known as Terminal A) was completed, along with a 1,300 space parking garage. All of which was built adjacent to the older terminal and air traffic control tower. To this day, this was the largest capacity increase in the airport's history. Just two years later in 1986, a new 220 ft. air traffic control tower was built at the airport, replacing the original in-terminal tower built in 1953, it still stands today as an iconic symbol of the airport's "skyline."

A decade later in 1994 another Airport Master Plan was developed with an eye to the future. The Master plan included additional parking, two additional terminal facilities and a two-tiered roadway system linking all terminal facilities. The build out in the Master Plan slowly came to fruition over the next several years. In 2007, the 3,000 space long term parking facility was opened, in 2009 the two tiered roadway was opened to arriving and departing traffic.

In November of 2010, Terminal B began operations, featuring eight gates and 250,000 square feet of space. When opened the terminal played host to Continental and American Airlines, and now is home to United Airlines and American. Due to the economic climate plans for a "Terminal C" have been put on hold until the economy turns around and the demand increases for additional gates.

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Our Mission:

To innovatively manage our airports to provide a positive customer experience while supporting economic development.

San Antonio International Airport is positioned well for growth heading into the coming century. In 2010 the City completed Vision 2050, the Master Plan which outlines facility needs and projected growth over the next 40 years. Already we are seeing the results of that work. In the coming years we will see several projects come to life. Terminal A will begin a major re-life project which will include a complete overhaul of restroom facilities, new finishes throughout the concourse area including fixtures and furniture as well as a complete remodeling of the concourse flooring to include terrazzo flooring and new carpet in appropriate areas.